Preparing Your Home for Photography

A little preparation goes a long way toward creating beautiful, professional photographs. Please use this checklist before your scheduled photography appointment.

Throughout the Home

☐ Clean and declutter all rooms
☐ Remove unnecessary items from floors and furniture
☐ Clear tables, desks, and countertops
☐ Put away personal photographs and highly personal items
☐ Open curtains and blinds to let in natural light
☐ Replace burned-out light bulbs
☐ Turn on all interior lights and lamps
☐ Straighten pillows, rugs, and furniture
☐ Hide cords, chargers, remotes, and small electronics
☐ Remove pet beds, bowls, toys, and litter boxes

Kitchen

☐ Clear countertops as much as possible
☐ Remove dishes from the sink and drying rack
☐ Remove magnets, notes, and photographs from the refrigerator
☐ Put away dish soap, sponges, towels, and cleaning supplies
☐ Remove garbage and recycling containers
☐ Add a simple decorative touch if desired

Bedrooms

☐ Make all beds neatly
☐ Straighten pillows and bedding
☐ Clear nightstands and dressers of clutter
☐ Put away clothing, shoes, laundry baskets, and personal items
☐ Remove items stored underneath beds if they are visible

Bathrooms

☐ Clear countertops completely
☐ Put away toothbrushes, toiletries, medications, and personal products
☐ Remove towels and bathrobes from doors and shower rods
☐ Close toilet lids

☐ Remove wastebaskets, toilet brushes, scales, and cleaning products
☐ Clean mirrors and glass shower doors

Exterior & Yard

☐ Move vehicles out of the driveway and away from the front of the home
☐ Put garbage and recycling containers out of sight
☐ Store garden hoses, tools, toys, and lawn equipment
☐ Sweep walkways, patios, decks, and porches
☐ Arrange outdoor furniture neatly
☐ Remove unnecessary items from porches and entryways
☐ Mow the lawn and tidy landscaping when possible

Just Before the Photographer Arrives

☐ Turn on all lights
☐ Open blinds and curtains
☐ Turn off ceiling fans
☐ Turn off televisions and computer screens
☐ Secure pets or arrange for them to be away from the property
☐ Make one final walk-through for clutter

Remember: The camera sees everything! A clean, bright, and uncluttered home will photograph better and help potential buyers focus on the features that make your property special.